

heightened by the perusal of these tokens which serve as a connecting link between those who live this day and have their being and those who lived three thousand years ago, who saw these works of art as they issued forth fresh from the coiner's hand ; who ate, who drank, who slept, who died while these coins were still in their first infancy. Strange customs and curious ethnological facts, traits and coincidences have been displayed or developed upon coins, the records of the earth verified and brought to light. The world's epitome is here ; history, geography, philosophy, religion, all bear their part.

Thrice happy be the gifted mortal who can lift the veil and read the secrets of the dusky night.

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*Stated Meeting, February 21, 1879.*

Present, 8 members.

Vice-President, ELI K. PRICE, in the Chair.

Photographs for the album were received from Mr. John Ericsson, and Mr. William Ewing Dubois.

Letters of envoy were received from the Rev. F. C. Ager, Secretary A. Swedenborg Printing and Publishing House, New York ; from the Board of Commissioners of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, and from the Meteorological Office of the Royal Society, London.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Museum of Comp. Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts (102) ; the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (102) ; the American Chemical Society, No. 11 East Fourteenth Street, New York City (65 to 102 inclusive) ; from Mr. William Bower Taylor, 457 C. Street, Washington (102) ; Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison (102) ; Royal Geological Society of Ireland (100 and List) ; West Chester Philosophical Society (65 to 102 inclusive) ; New Hampshire Historical Society (102) ; Poughkeepsie Society of Natural History (102) ; Rhode Island Historical Society (102) ; Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, Philadelphia (102) ; New Jersey Historical Society (102) ; Georgia Historical Society (102) ; Davenport Academy of Natural Science (101, 102), and from numerous

members acknowledging the receipt of their copies of the Proceedings (102).

A letter was received from the Royal Library in Strasbourg asking for further exchanges and donations.

A letter was received from Mr. Austin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard College, one of the Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, asking permission to examine and compare the Lee MSS. in the Library with the Lee MSS. in the possession of the Cambridge Library in Gore Hall, and to publish desirable portions of the same.

On motion it was resolved that the Librarian be authorized to forward the Lee MSS. to the Committee, with permission to publish the same, returning the originals in good order to this Society.

Donations for the Library were received from the Zoologischer Anzeiger, Leipzig; the Bordeaux Society of Commercial Geography; *Revue Politique*, Paris; Mr. Thomas Clark, London; Editors of *Nature*; Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Cornell University; American Chemical Society, and Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, New York; Brooklyn Entomological Society; Franklin Institute, and *Medical News*, Philadelphia; Smithsonian Institution and Light House Board, Washington; Wisconsin Academy; Geological Survey of Pennsylvania; and the Ministerio de Fomento, Mexico; and in addition to the above, an engraving of a medal, found among Franklin's papers, was presented to the Society by Mr. J. Dickinson Sergeant, 420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia.

The death of Prof. Elia Lombardini, of Italy, December 19, 1878, aged 84 years (born October, 1794), was announced by the Secretary.

A communication entitled, "Further Confirmation of Prediction, by Pliny Earle Chase," was read by the Secretary.

A communication from a private letter respecting the great gas well lately struck at Murraysville, in Westmore-

land county, Pennsylvania, was read by the Secretary, as follows:

“The newspapers have doubtless informed you of a wonderful *gas well* recently bored in the village of Murraysville, in this county. It is about twelve miles north-west of this place, and is the result of an effort to obtain petroleum. At the depth of 1350 feet the rush of gas was so great that further boring was prevented. The tube now inserted in the well is five and a half inches in diameter, and through this the gas rushes with a roar that is heard distinctly at a distance of two miles.

“A few days ago I formed one of a party to visit it, and I will now try to convey to you an idea of its importance. In the ‘derrick room’ a horizontal tube has been placed on the top of the main tube, and at right angles with this, four two-inch tubes have been fastened, two of them on the north and two on the south side, each pair about six feet apart, thirty feet in length, and raised three feet above the common level. At night a match is applied to the open end of each tube, and instantly the whole country around is lighted up with a brilliancy that eclipses the moon at the full. At a distance of twenty feet the heat is intense.”

Mr. Lesley explained that the boring commenced in the upper half of the Barren Measures, beneath the Pittsburgh coal bed, and penetrated the Carboniferous rocks, to a depth corresponding nearly with the horizon of the Berea Grit, which holds petroleum, in Ohio. This horizon of gas seems to correspond within one or two hundred feet with that of the well-known Leechburg gas well on the south side of the Conemaugh River, some miles north of Murraysville, described in Report of Progress (I.) of the Second Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, page 121.

A communication entitled “A contribution to the Geology of the Lower Amazonas; by Orville A. Derby, M. S.,” Assistant to the late Prof. Hartt, Geologist of Brazil, was read by the Secretary. (See page 155, above.)

Dr. König exhibited his improved chrometric apparatus; but on account of the small attendance of members, postponed a fuller description to the next meeting.

Pending nomination No. 872 was read and the meeting was adjourned.